# States Take Action: School Nutrition/Physical Activity Policies

Jan Lewis, M.A., R.D

Nutrition Education Consultant
California Department of Education
Nutrition Services Division

#### **OBECTIVES OF THIS SESSION**

- Need for policy change at the district level
- Federal/State funding for policy change
- Role of Advisory Committee in assisting a State agency in monitoring policy project.
- Description of the progress of model policy grantees



#### **HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010**

- Objective 19.5

Focuses on the School Nutrition Environment:

"Increase the proportion of children and adolescents, ages 6 to 19, whose intake of meals and snacks at school contributes proportionally to good overall dietary quality."



#### California Department of Education Nutrition Services Division

- All of California's children will be nourished and healthy so that they are ready to learn and able to achieve their full potential.
- The school environment promotes consistent nutrition messages for healthy eating by coordinating classroom nutrition education activities with healthful food choices.

# "Changing the Scene" Components of a Healthy School Nutrition Environment

- Commitment to Nutrition and Physical Activity
- Quality School Meals
- Other Healthy Food Options
- Pleasant Eating Experiences
- Nutrition Education
- Marketing





#### **Key to Policy Development**

# = RESOURCES

- Policy Development Guidelines and Assessment Tools
- Funding for Local Development
- Committed People

California Department of Education Policy Projects

#### MODEL SCHOOL NUTRITION/PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY GRANTS:

- Six School Districts Funded: \$11,000 to \$25,000 each
- Funding Source:
  - 2001 Team Nutrition Training Grant
- Funding Period:

March 1, 2002 to August 30, 2003

California Department of Education Policy Projects:

- MODEL SCHOOL NUTRITION and PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY GRANTS
- Focus:

Development and adoption of Nutrition/Physical Activity Policies, and a Plan for Implementation

- Support:
  - **School Policy Advisory Committee** 
    - 17 members statewide

### **Prioritizing Policy Changes Based On:**

- Surveying environment in all schools
  - Vending Machines
  - Other food sales
  - Al a carte food sales
- Changing the Scene Data
- School Health Index Data
- Obtaining the current school policies

#### **Media Advocacy**

- At the time of the presentation to the school board the topic was covered on the front page of our local paper and on the local radio news.
- In the next two weeks the editor wrote an editorial about the need for a good nutrition and physical education environment in the schools.

California Department of Education Policy Projects:

- LINKING EDUCATION, ACTIVITY, AND FOOD (LEAF) GRANTS:
- Policy Grants funding for one year; and
- Pilot Grants —funding for two years.
- LEAF Grants are designed to reflect the intent of:
- Senate Bill 19: The Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001; and
- The Buy California Initiative that provides funds from CA Department of Agriculture.

#### WHO BENEFITS?

All school-age children benefit

from development of school nutrition/ physical activity policies.

All of society will benefit as healthy children contribute to healthy communities.





### California Department of Education CONTACT INFORMATION

Jan Lewis, M.A., R.D.

**Nutrition Education Consultant** 

(916) 323-7185

JLEWIS@CDE.CA.GOV